Unemployed Graduates/Post Graduates

†*416. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the literacy percentage for the year 2001 was 65.37 in comparison to the 16.67 per cent in the year 1951 in the country;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed Graduates and Post Graduates out of them; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) As per the information available from the office of the Registrar General of India, literacy percentage in the country in the year 1951 and 2001 was approximately 18.33% and 65.37% (provisional) respectively.

Number of Graduate and Post Graduate job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on December, 2001 (latest available) was of the order of 52.74 lakh. Several Employment Generation programmes in addition to employment generation through normal growth process have been initiated to tackle the problems of unemployment.

Bidding by NHAI to cut cost of road projects

*419. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is making an attempt to cut costs on its massive Inter-State highway development plan by moving to a less-cost bidding protocol;

(b) if so, wouldn't this move lead to serious defaults on quality;

(c) whether the NHAI has announced new bidding process for around 2,160 kms. of North-South-East-West corridors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the progress of the above corridor in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) NHAI has recently invited bids from consultants for procurement of Detailed Project Report (DPR) consultancy for the North-South and East-West Corridors. The consultants will be first evaluated with respect to prescribed technical requirements. Financial proposals of the consulants passing the minimum technical criteria will be opened and the lowest bidder will be selected for consultancy work. In the process there will be no compromise on quality of consultancy.

(c) and (d) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has invited bids from consultants on least cost basis for procurement of Detailed Project Report consultancy in respect of 2324 km. of highways to be developed under North-South and East-West Corridors component of National Highways Development Project. (1770 km. under NS corridor and 554 km. under EW corridor).

(e) The status of North-South Corridor project in the State of Andhra Pradesh is as under :—

(i)	Total length	–	753.40 Km.
(ii)	Completed	–	29.50 Km.
(iii)	Under Implementation	–	22.90 Km.
(iv)	Balance for award	–	701.00 Km.

I.T.Is. in Mau and Azamgarh (U.P.)

*420. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mau and Azamgarh in U.P. are weaver concentrated areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no I.T.I. in that area; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to open atleast one I.T.I. for the benefit of the weavers community and the public residing in that area?